

Who may register to vote?

A citizen of the United States, who:

- a. is a resident of California,
- b. is at least 18 years of age (or will be by the date of the next election),
- c. is not in prison or on parole for conviction of a felony, and
- d. has not been judged by a court to be mentally incompetent to register and vote.

How do I register to vote?

You may register by completing a registration-by mail form. Forms can be obtained during regular business hours at the ROV office, 777 E. Rialto Ave., San Bernardino or forms are available throughout San Bernardino County at most county offices, city halls, fire stations, libraries, Department of Motor Vehicle branches, Public Assistance Offices (TAD, WIC, etc.) Social Security Administration and U.S. Post Offices.

You may choose to register via the Internet at www.sbcrov.com.

Completed registration cards can be returned by mail to the ROV office, postage is pre-paid. Voter registration cards are processed upon receipt by ROV office, and in approximately 2 weeks, voters receive a Voter Notification Card (VNC) in the mail as proof of registration. A voter should review the information on the card for correctness and notify the ROV office of any incorrect information.

NOTE: If you have just moved to California, there is no waiting period required to register. However, you must be registered 15 days prior to the date of the next election to be eligible to vote in that election. A sample ballot pamphlet will be mailed to each voter who registers or re-registers **at least 29 days prior to the election**. Persons who register between 29 and 15 days prior to an election may be sent a sample ballot if there is time to process these last minute registrations. If not, such registrants will receive a Voter Notification Card that also includes a notice of their polling location for the upcoming election.

When is it necessary to re-register?

1. If you move,
2. If you change your name (due to marriage or court order), or
3. If you change your political party affiliation.

If you are registered in the County of San Bernardino, and have moved without updating your voter registration record, and the 15 day registration deadline has passed, please call the ROV office immediately so that we may assist you in updating your record and providing you with instructions on where you will vote.

The county has many unique areas where mail is not delivered to the residence address and it is required that the individual have a post office box or separate mailing address. If you are in such an area and change your residence address, you must re-register at the new residence address-even if your mailing address remains the

same and you are still receiving election materials in the mail. **If you do not vote in the polling place assigned to your current residence, you may be casting an illegal ballot.**

Do I have to register with a political party?

California law permits you to choose a political party, Decline to State or Other. If you choose **Other**, you may print the name of an unqualified political party. No person shall be entitled to vote the ballot of any political party unless he or she has registered with that party. However, if a voter has declined to state a political party affiliation, and the political party permits it, the unaffiliated voter may vote in the party's primary election. In the general election, you would be allowed to vote for any political party's candidate.

Where will I vote?

Approximately three weeks before an election, you will receive a sample ballot pamphlet from the Registrar of Voters Office. This pamphlet provides a voter with information on candidates, local measures and state propositions. Each voter should read the sample ballot pamphlet carefully, marking your voting choices in the pamphlet and taking it to the polls with you. Marking your sample ballot pamphlet will aid you in voting your official ballot and will shorten the lines at the polls.

You need to verify the location of your polling place printed on the back cover to the sample ballot pamphlet as this location may change from one election to another. If you reside in an area that does not have a polling location, your sample ballot pamphlet and official ballot will be mailed to you automatically.

If you do not receive your sample ballot pamphlet between 14-10 days prior to the election, call the Registrar of Voters Office to be sure you are correctly registered and to obtain the location of your polling place.

When there is a statewide election and there are state propositions on the ballot, the Secretary of State's Office will mail a "California Official Voter Information Guide", which contains comprehensive summaries, legislative analyses and pro/con arguments on the propositions, to each household of registered voters

How do I vote at the polls?

1. First, you will announce your name and address (party affiliation if primary election) to the poll worker.
2. When your name and address are located, they will ask you to sign your name on the roster. If your name is not on the list, you may be at the wrong polling place. Check the poll address on your sample ballot. If the poll officer is unable to solve the problem, you can call the Registrar of Voters office personally.
3. The poll worker will demonstrate the use of the voting device with a demonstrator ballot.
4. You will be given an official ballot. If you have not brought your sample ballot pamphlet with you, you may

request one from the poll worker. If you have brought your sample ballot pamphlet with you, have the poll worker verify that it is for the correct ballot type.

5. Go to a voting booth. Directions are in the booth, both in English and Spanish. Vote your ballot, and then remove it from the voting device. Inspect your ballot card to be sure all "**chads**" are cleanly and completely punched out. Remove any loose "**chads**" on the back of the card.
6. Fold the long stub over the ballot card and return it to the precinct polls officer. The precinct officer will remove the short stub at the top perforation and give it to you. You should watch as the polls officer places your ballot into the ballot box.

Remember that you do not have to vote on every candidate or issue to have your ballot counted.

NOTE: If you make a mistake on your ballot, remove it from the voting device and take it to the polls officer who will put it into a special envelope marked "**spoiled**". You will be given another ballot to vote on. Please take extra time and punch it very carefully. You may have up to three ballots.

For countywide elections, polls are open on Election Day from 7:00 am to 8:00 p.m.

How do I vote if I can't go the polls?

1. You may apply for an absentee ballot:

Anyone may choose to vote by mail. An application for an absentee ballot is on the back of each sample ballot pamphlet. A voter may either complete this application or download the application on the Internet at www.sbcrov.com and mail it, or write to the Registrar of Voters Office to request an absentee ballot. Each application must contain the voter's printed name, residence address, the name and date of the election for which a ballot is requested, the address where the ballot is to be mailed, if different from the residence address and the voter's signature. Please also include your day time phone number or e-mail address so that we can contact you if there is a problem with your application.

Voters may apply for an absentee ballot as early as 60 days prior to the election. Ballots are mailed to applicants beginning on the 29th day before each election.

Applications must be received no later than 7 days before Election Day.

You can return your voted ballot as soon as you have voted it. You may return it by mail, in person at the ROV office, or on Election Day at any polling place in San Bernardino County.

Absentee Ballots must be in the possession of the ROV office by 8:00 p.m. on Election Night.

2. Emergency absentee voting:

If, during the final seven days before an election, a voter becomes ill or disabled or, **for any reason**, finds that they will be away from the polls on election day, the voter may

request in a written statement, signed under penalty of perjury, that a ballot be issued to him or her. This ballot shall be given by the elections official to any authorized agent of the voter who presents this written statement to the elections official. The voter shall mark the ballot, place it in the ID/Return envelope, fill out and sign the envelope and return the ballot, personally or through an authorized agent to either the elections official or any polling place within the County of San Bernardino. If the authorized agent returns the ballot, the voter must also complete that portion of the envelope. The voter may also come into the Registrar of Voters Office and vote in person.

3. Permanent absentee voting:

Any registered voter may request permanent absent voter status. The voter will automatically be mailed an official ballot for each election in which he/she is entitled to vote. If a permanent absent voter does not vote in a statewide primary or general election, he/she will be deleted from the permanent absent voter file (not from the voter file). The voter must reapply to be placed back on the permanent absentee file.

How do I vote when I am away at school?

You may register to vote at either your parents' address or your college address. However if you want to remain a registered voter in San Bernardino County, you would need to use your parents' address as your **residence**. You could use your college address as your **mailing** address. You can vote by requesting an absentee ballot for each election. The absentee application is on the back cover of the sample ballot pamphlet. The completed application must be received no later than 7 days prior to the election.

Will I be called for jury duty?

Voter Registration information is confidential. However, by law we provide the voter list to the County Jury System. Jury lists are also based on DMV information. So if you have a driver's license you are already in the pool of persons to be called for jury duty.

How can I earn money on Election Day?

We are always looking for registered voters who would like to assist at the polls on Election Day. Poll workers are paid for their services. The Registrar of Voters Office gives instructional classes in various county locations before each election. **Number to Call 909-381-2860**

VOTING SERVICES FOR THE DISABLED AND ELDERLY

TDD services for the hearing impaired:

The San Bernardino County Registrar of Voters has a telecommunications device (TDD) to answer inquiries of any citizen who has a hearing impairment: 909-387-2788.

State ballot pamphlet cassette tape

Cassette tapes are available of the California Official Voter Information Guide to allow blind and visually impaired voters access to the comprehensive summaries, legislative analyses and pro/con arguments on the state propositions.

These audiocassettes are available from most libraries and the ROV office **at no cost** to the voter,

Voting at the polls

1. Symbol of access:

Polling place accessibility to the disabled is noted by the international symbol of access on the back cover of the sample ballot pamphlet.



2. Accessibility:

Some polling places may be modified to make them accessible for the day, by fitting doorways with wedges, propping doors open and posting parking signs for the disabled.

3. Inside the polls:

Special voting booths are provided to allow voting in a seated position and/or for wheelchairs. A special large-handle stylus is available to punch the ballot card more easily. A magnifying glass is available to enlarge the ballot print.

4. Assistance:

Under California law, any voter who needs help in casting a ballot is entitled to assistance in voting. If a voter is unable to mark his/her ballot personally, they may be assisted by up to two people of their choice in casting the ballot, or any poll worker may provide assistance. The assistant(s) may not be a voter's employer or employer's agent, or a voter's labor union leader or agent.

5. Curbside voting:

Any voter who comes to the polls and cannot enter the voting room because of the architectural barriers or physical limitations may request to vote **curbside** (outside of the poll location). When notified that an individual has requested curbside voting, a poll worker will bring the voting materials to the voter, assist the voter if necessary, and place the voter's ballot in the ballot box.

GUIDE TO REGISTERING AND VOTING IN SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY

(INCLUDING INFORMATION FOR
THE ELDERLY AND DISABLED VOTERS)

SHARON BERINGSON
Interim Registrar of Voters

County of San Bernardino
777 East Rialto Avenue
San Bernardino, CA 92415-0770

NUMBERS TO CALL

General Information	909-387-8300
Toll Free	800-881-VOTE
Absentee Section	909-387-2047
TDD (Hearing Impaired)	909-387-2788
To Work at Polls	909-381-2860
FAX	909-387-2022
FAX (Absentee)	909-386-8388
Website	www.sbcrov.com